

HR 4572

STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: May 6, 2014

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Jul 29, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/4572>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Walden, Greg [R-OR-2]

Party: Republican • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		May 6, 2014
Rep. Upton, Fred [R-MI-6]	R · MI		May 6, 2014
Rep. Waxman, Henry A. [D-CA-33]	D · CA		May 6, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 29, 2014
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Reported By	Jul 11, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 S 2799	Related bill	Dec 12, 2014: By Senator Rockefeller from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report. Report No. 113-322.
113 HR 5728	Related bill	Dec 4, 2014: Became Public Law No: 113-200.
113 HR 5036	Related bill	Jul 22, 2014: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 410.
113 S 2454	Related bill	Jun 26, 2014: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 445.

STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 - **Title I: Communications Provisions** - (Sec. 101) Amends the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA), to extend until December 31, 2019, the exemption from retransmission consent requirements (which prohibit cable systems or other multichannel video programming distributors [MVPDs] from retransmitting broadcasting station signals without the authority of the originating station) for satellite retransmissions of network station signals to subscribers located outside of a station's local market who reside in unserved households (commonly referred to as "distant signals"). Extends until January 1, 2020: (1) the prohibition on exclusive retransmission consent contracts, and (2) the requirement that television broadcast stations and MVPDs negotiate in good faith.

(Sec. 102) Directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to prohibit television broadcast stations from coordinating their negotiations or negotiating jointly in the same local market to grant retransmission consent to an MVPD, unless such stations are directly or indirectly under common de jure control permitted under FCC regulations.

(Sec. 103) Establishes a process to delay application of the FCC's amendments to joint sales agreement (JSA) rules under which a television station that sells more than 15% of the weekly advertising time of another station in the same market is attributed an ownership interest subject to ownership limitation rules. Prohibits a JSA party that submits a petition to the FCC for a waiver of such attribution rules from being considered in violation of ownership limits until the later of: (1) 18 months after the FCC denies such petition, or (2) December 31, 2016. (Currently, the FCC requires compliance with ownership limits within two years of the FCC's order adopting such amended attribution rules.)

(Sec. 104) Removes a prohibition against deletion or reposition of a local commercial television station during periods in which major television ratings services measure the size of local television station audiences (commonly referred to as "sweeps" weeks).

(Sec. 105) Repeals an integration ban that prohibits certain MVPDs from placing in service new navigation devices (set-top boxes) for sale, lease, or use that perform both conditional access (mechanisms that provide for selective access and denial of specific services and can prevent a signal from being received by unauthorized users) and other functions in a single integrated device.

(Sec. 106) Requires a Comptroller General (GAO) report concerning changes to carriage requirements currently imposed on MVPDs that would be required, or beneficial to consumers, if Congress implemented a phase-out of statutory compulsory licensing procedures (a licensing and royalty distribution system administered by the U.S. Copyright Office under which cable and satellite operators may retransmit programming, without negotiating with every copyright holder, by paying licensing royalties at statutorily-defined rates determined by Copyright Royalty Judges or by using a royalty-free license for the retransmission of local broadcasts) under federal copyright law.

(Sec. 107) Directs satellite carriers to submit annual reports to the FCC regarding: (1) the local markets in which television broadcast station signals are retransmitted with a community of license, and (2) the use and potential use of satellite capacity for the retransmission of local signals in each local market. Terminates such reporting requirements after each satellite carrier has submitted five reports.

(Sec. 108) Requires the FCC to report to Congress regarding: (1) the extent to which consumers in each local market have access to broadcast programming from television broadcast stations located outside their local market, including through carriage by cable operators and satellite carriers of signals that are significantly viewed; and (2) whether there

are technologically and economically feasible alternatives to the use of designated market areas to define markets that would provide consumers with more programming options and the potential impact such alternatives could have on localism and on broadcast television locally, regionally, and nationally.

Title II: Copyright Provisions - Amends federal copyright law to extend until December 31, 2019, the statutory license under which satellite carriers retransmit distant television broadcast stations to viewers who are unable to receive signals for such stations in their local market. (Currently, the statutory licensing authority for such satellite retransmissions is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2014.)

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 29, 2014:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- **Jul 23, 2014:** Received in the Senate.
- **Jul 22, 2014:** Mr. Walden moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jul 22, 2014:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6588-6592)
- **Jul 22, 2014:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 4572.
- **Jul 22, 2014:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H6588-6589)
- **Jul 22, 2014:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H6588-6589)
- **Jul 22, 2014:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 22, 2014:** The title of the measure was amended. Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 11, 2014:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Energy and Commerce. H. Rept. 113-518.
- **Jul 11, 2014:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 389.
- **May 8, 2014:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 8, 2014:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **May 7, 2014:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 6, 2014:** Introduced in House
- **May 6, 2014:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.